

NOTE: This is the original version of the story previously published as "Vancouver Killer" in Liberty, a Canadian magazine. The editor of the magazine changed the location to Canada.

Therefore, this is the version that should be used for reprints.

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# MIKE SHAYNE MYSTERY MAGAZINE

ALL THE FACES OF FEAR

by Brett Halliday

*The animal was huge, with thick black fur, small eyes that glinted, and sharp teeth that Shayne could see as it opened its mouth to let out a furious roar. The beady eyes fastened on Shayne, trapped in its cage, and it took another step forward, arms coming up to reach for its victim...6*

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*Some people deserve to die. Other people deserve to  
kill!*

# FOR THE GOOD OF SOCIETY

by JACK RITCHIE

THE BIG CAR MOVED SMOOTHLY through the sun-splashed countryside. Evans watched the passing scenery and he seemed to be enjoying it.

He lifted the handcuffed left hand toward the cigarette in his mouth and then decided it would be easier with the free right. He exhaled smoke. "I'm a city boy," he said. "But this looks good to me today. I'd like to get out and walk around."

"Remember it when you try to get sleep tonight," I said.

He put the cigarette back in his mouth and it moved as he talked.

"I haven't been up to the pen for more than four years," he said. "Wonder if they made any changes."

"I'm glad you show interest," I said. "Be sure to look around and have a happy time."

He ground out the cigarette in the ash tray set into the arm rest and raised an eyebrow as he looked at me. "I'll bet you think of me as a killer."

"I had that idea," I said. "But I have a warped point of view."

"What did I kill that really mattered?"

I took my eyes away from the back of the officer driving the car. "I'd say three human beings. Or were there more I haven't heard of?"

The thin smile came to his face. "Let's leave it at three."

"I know you like talking about them," I said. "Tell me again about the first one."

"Let's call that one self-defense," he said. "Nick Walter had a great big automatic that he was going to point at me." Evans smiled to himself for the time it took us to pass a car and then he turned his head back to me. "Wouldn't you say that I did society a favor?"

"Nick was medium bad," I said. "He took things that didn't belong to him. But that should mean jail, not a coffin."

Evans shrugged. "It's a point of view."

"None of it bothers you," I said. "You don't have nightmares?"

"I don't worry about it, if that's what you mean. A thousand people die every hour. Let's see your tears for them."

My eyes went back to the thick neck of the driver. "Somebody cried for them."

"Did they?" He smiled again. "Did anybody cry for Al Tomas? Maybe the wife who got terror in her eyes every time he thought of coming home? Or the parents of the high school kids Nick got into the habit of using the white powder?"

"He got it in the back, didn't he? Self-defense?"

"Let's say that it was kind of dark and I didn't know whether he was coming or going with that butcher knife. I forgot to eat my carrots at dinner and my eyesight was bad."

"The killings all gave you a kick, didn't they? Are you looking forward to any more now?"

"You never know when you get the opportunity."

The big car slowed behind a truck until it got over a hill and then swung left to pass.

Evans' right hand brought out a pack of cigarettes from his coat pocket. He tapped one out and used a silver lighter to get it lit.

"But you don't really care about Walter or Tomas," he said. "It's

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Frankie Carmody that makes your lips so tight."

"You helped society on that one too. Is that the way you figure it? He was only nineteen, but you read into the future and you could see where he was going."

"What do you think? He had a record that began getting monotonous by the time he was sixteen."

"I'm wondering about the money," I said. "The company claimed there was fifteen grand in that safe. Four thousand was all anybody found in Frankie's satchel."

Evans smiled. "Bad bookkeeping. Or one of the boys in the firm was cheating."

"I hope you hid it good," I said. "You must have had ten minutes before I came down the roof and joined you."

He clucked his tongue. "Now you got the idea that I'm a crook."

"Will you ever get a chance to spend it? There'll be a lot of eyes on you from now on."

THE BIG CAR TURNED OFF THE MAIN HIGHWAY onto the dirt road leading to the State prison.

Evan's eyes surveyed me. "You're lucky," he said. "I had bad thoughts in mind for you."

I looked at the walls looming up ahead. "But by that time there were too many other people around. You could think up a story to explain about Frankie because there was no one around when it happened. But you had to forget the gun when I came in with company."

The car paused at the gates and then shot through as they opened.

"I like seeing people like you dead," Evans said. "But it looks like you're safe for now."

The car stopped and we got out and entered the Administration building. The uniformed cop carried the brown envelope with the records.

We went up the stairs to the receiving desk where a guard sergeant raised his eyes when he saw us and grinned. "It's been some time," he said. "Tickled to see you again, Killer."

I looked at Evans. "They know you."

"I don't mind the words," he said. "I'm not sensitive."

After the handcuffs were off, Evans massaged his wrists for a little while. then he put one hand on my back and moved me closer to the desk.

"Well, he's all yours now," he said. "I brought him in standing up and it makes me miserable. See that life is unpleasant for him. I want him to think that his brother Frankie Carmody was the lucky one." ●